DEVELOPMENT SECRETARIAT

Appoints *Rajamantrapravina Diwan Bahadur* K. Matthan to enquire into the conditions of labour employed on the Kolar Gold Field.

ORDER No. D. 1237-42—I. & C. 85-40-3, DATED BANGALORE, THE 6TH SEPTEMBER 1940.

During the recent labour strike on the Kolar Gold Field, a deputation of workers waited upon the Dewan to explain their grievances and make representations about conditions of employment in the gold mining industry. It was ascertained that, on similar representations made to the Mining Companies, they had decided to sanction certain increases in the rates of wages and had expressed their readiness to deal suitably with any legitimate complaints, particularly those of an individual nature brought to their notice. As it appeared, however, that some of the questions raised were of a general character or required further elucidation and scrutiny, Government considered that an independent enquiry into such questions would be more satisfactory to all concerned.

2. At the request of Government, *Rajamantrapravina Diwan Bahadur* K. Matthan, retired First Member of Council, has kindly agreed to undertake the enquiry as early as possible. Government will be glad if, in addition to examining the specific representations made by the workers, Mr. Matthan will take the opportunity of reviewing the progress and (in the light of existing conditions), the adequacy of the various measures already adopted by the Mining Companies in pursuance of the recommendations made in Mr. M. A. Sreenivasan's report of 1931 on the economic and social conditions of workers emloyed in the gold mining industry. A summary of these recommendations and the action taken thereon, which was prepared for the information of the Legislative Council in January 1940 is reproduced as an annexure to this order.

3. Mr. Matthan is also requested to examine the practical effect, so far as the labour population on the Kolar Gold Field is concerned, of the several measures of labour legislation in force in the State and to favour Government with any suggestions calculated to promote the object with which they were enacted.

4. The Mining Companies have assured Government of their fullest co-operation with regard to this enquiry. The Chief Inspector of Mines, the Labour Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner, Kolar District, are requested to render any assistance that may be required by Mr. Matthan in this connection.

C. E. NORONHA,
Secretary to Government,
Development Department.

ANNEXURE.

Summary of Recommendations.	*Action taken.*
1. Payment of attendance bonus to Contract labour, as is now being paid to Company labour.	This has been done. The Contractors' labour are also paid attendance bonus in the same manner as the Company labour.
2. Weekly payment of wages.	Fortnightly payments of wages are being made instead of monthly.
3. Improvement of drainage in cooly lines.	Drainage of the cooly lines has been greatly improved by the construction of masonry and concrete drains.
4. Building of concrete or masonry housing in place of present "Thatti" huts.	A large number of concrete and masonry huts have been built and the existing "Thatti" huts have been improved by the addition of separate kitchens and verandahs.
5. Improvement of the comforts and amenities by providing electric lights and facilities for bathing and washing clothes near the lines.	Electric lights have been provided in the cooly lines. Facilities for bathing and washing clothes have been provided in all the lines.
6. Shifting of the Oorgaum Cyanide line from the present locality.	This has been done.
7. Improvement of the sanitation, conservancy, lighting and water-supply of the cooly colonies in the Sanitary Board areas. Improving the amenities of these cooly colonies in the same manner as suggested above in respect of the "lines".	This is being done.
8. Reorganisation of the Mine Panchayets on a more really elective basis and utilising them for the free representation of complaints and grievances and of suggestions for the improvement of working and living conditions.	This has been done.
9. Starting a cheap co-operative provisions and cloth stores.	A number of provision stores and bazaars have been opened in the midst of the lines.
10. Improvement of the comforts and amenities in the lines by planting of shade and fruit trees and providing parks and playgrounds.	Shade trees have been planted and playgrounds and parks have been provided.
11. Extension of the supply of milk to ill-nourished children.	Milk centres have been organised.
12. Opening of continuation schools and night schools.	A number of primary schools and night schools are being run in the lines.
13. Issue of hot tea in the evenings at the shops in the lines and colonies, utilising the help, if available, of the Indian Tea Cess Committee.	A number of tea shops run by private agency have been opened in the cooly lines.
14. Providing free cinema shows of approved instructional and devotional films including those understood to be available with the Indian Central and Provincial Governments.	Free cinema shows and gramophone music are provided.
15. Organising "Kalakshepam," "Bhajanas," Lectures, etc., and music and flute plays suited to the local taste.	Theatre halls have been built in all the lines. In addition, Temples and Bhajana Mandirams are built in the lines.
16. Reviving the local Temperance Society and strengthening temperance propaganda with the aid if available, of the Bangalore Temperance Federation.	The local International Order of Good Templars and Temperance Associations have been holding anti-drink exhibitions and carrying on propaganda.
17. Constitution of a Joint Committee for the devotion of continuous attention to, and the periodical review of, welfare work among the work people.	A Central Welfare Committee with sub-committees for each mine has been organised. Meetings are held regularly and all matters concerning the welfare of the labour discussed.
18. Improvement of the income of families by promoting subsidiary occupations for unemployed and part-employed members by encouragement, among other things, of (a) hand spinning, (b) making of bamboo thatties, bamboo hats, baskets, etc., required by the Mines, and (c) cultivation of vegetable plots and plots of land in the neighbourhood.	Plots of land have been given to the coolies in the vicinity of the lines for cultivating vegetable and other gardens.

Summary of Recommendations.	*Action taken.*
19. Provision of creches for children of working women; grant of maternity benefit to women employees.	A creche and milk centre for children has been working in Robertsonpet. Maternity homes have been built in the lines for the benefit of the labourers' wives and children. A number of midwives and a lady health visitor have been appointed.
20. Opening of a dispensary near the Balghat end of the Field.	As the Balghat Mine has been closed down, this question does not arise.
21. Improving the staff and accommodation of Primary Schools in the area.	This has been done.
22. Provision of Telugu Schools for children of sweeper families.	Do
23. Starting a large technical school in the Field with facilities for training in useful crafts and vocations and in the use of mechanical appliances including mining appliances.	A High School started by the Sanitary Board has been working satisfactorily for the last three years.
24. Licencing the profession of money lending, providing for the regulation of the rate of interest, etc.	*Vide* Money Lenders' Act passed into law recently.
25. Effective exemption from attachment of the wages of all unskilled labour, and of a minimum amount of the wages of skilled labour.	Do do
26. Increased use of Safety First posters printed in the vernacular, with pictures of most local appeal.	This is being done. A number of artists have been appointed to paint realistic pictures of mining operations showing the right and the wrong way of working; the incidents depicted are explained in Tamil. These posters are put up at the shaft tops and illuminated during the night. In addition, Tamil booklets describing all the safety measures are distributed freely to all workmen.
27. Inauguration of a Provident Fund for all employees.	A service gratuity scheme for retirement on grounds of sickness or old age came into operation on 1st February 1931. Details of the Safety First campaign and welfare work are given in the reports of the Chief Inspector of Mines and Explosives which are published annually.

Sanctions the change of designation of certain Local Fund Dispensaries to Local Fund Hospitals.

READ—

Government Order No. G. 12695-706—Med. 272-38-4, dated 16th June 1939, sanctioning the change of designation of certain Local Fund Dispensaries.

2. Letter No. G. C. 66, dated 19th August 1940, from the Senior Surgeon in Mysore, recommending, for reasons stated, that the Local Fund Dispensary, Chikballapur in the Kolar District and the Local Fund Dispensary, Chamarajnagar in the Mysore District which are in charge of well qualified Assistant Surgeons of considerable experience, be designated as hospitals or Local Fund Hospitals.

ORDER No. G. 2247-53—MED. 55-40-2, DATED BANGALORE, THE 14TH SEPTEMBER 1940.

The proposal to call them Local Fund Hospitals is sanctioned. This will, however, not affect the contributions payable by the Local Bodies concerned.

C. E. NORONHA,
Secretary to Government,
Development Department.

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